



NAEFO Update

February 16, 2011

National Association of Elected Fire Officials
300 Oswego Pointe Drive, Suite 220, Lake Oswego, OR 97034
Office: 503.607.0194 Toll Free: 877.479.6629
Website: www.naefo.org
President, Mark Kreutzer
Secretary to The Board, Jennifer McDermott

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Our Mission

Our primary purpose is to represent and inform elected officials of national

THE AFG AND SAFER PROGRAMS ARE UNDER ATTACK!!

issues and provide assistance to state associations. The Association's Vision Statement is:

"The National Association of Elected Fire Officials is a forward thinking national organization that speaks with a unified voice for all elected fire officials for the purpose of influencing policies, regulations and legislation relating to the fire service."

Quick Links

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The Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant programs are under attack!

On February 11, the House Appropriations Committee proposed reducing funding for AFG from \$390 million to \$300 million in FY 2011 and eliminating SAFER (funded at \$420 million in FY 2010) altogether for FY 2011.

Then on February 14, President Obama proposed reducing AFG funding even further to \$250 million in his FY 2012 budget request.

Last week, the NVFC sent a letter to House and Senate appropriators asking them to provide a total of \$810 million (flat funding) split evenly between AFG and SAFER in FY 2011. Use Cap Wiz to [tell your representatives in the House and Senate](#) that you support the request to maintain funding for these vital fire service grant programs!

The NVFC is concerned about the Obama administration's continuing lack of support for AFG. The President's budget request frames the initial debate on funding levels every fiscal year. In FY 2010 the President requested only \$170 million for AFG - a proposed cut of almost \$400 million compared to the previous fiscal year. While the NVFC was able to work with our supporters in Congress to obtain an appropriation of \$390 million for AFG that year, the President's budget request set the tone for a \$175 million reduction in funding - the largest single-year cut that the program has sustained since it was created.

Use Cap Wiz to [tell the President](#) that you are disappointed in his lack of support for AFG!

Upcoming Events:

For more Upcoming Events, please visit the

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NAEFO Update

February 22, 2011

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HOUSE APPROVES EXTENDING WAIVERS FOR SAFER GRANT PROGRAM

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On Thursday, February 17th, the House of Representatives approved an amendment introduced by Congressman David Price (NC-4) to extend specific waivers to the SAFER program. The

amendment, which was approved during consideration of H.R. 1, the Fiscal Year 2011 Full-Year Continuing Resolution Act, extends waivers Congress had previously approved allowing fire departments to use the grants to avoid firefighter layoffs and rehire laid-off firefighters. The waivers also relax certain budgetary requirements that have proven prohibitive to departments applying for SAFER grants. The previous waivers had been approved only for Fiscal Years 2009 and 2010. The amendment was approved by a vote of 267-159.

H.R. 1 funds programs and activities of the federal government through the end of Fiscal Year 2011. The bill initially contained over \$100 billion in cuts compared to the President's FY11 budget request.

While the bill originally included cuts to the FIRE Grant Program and had eliminated the SAFER Grant Program, the House approved an amendment introduced by Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr. (NJ-8) to restore those programs to their FY10 funding levels.

House leadership has stated their intent to finish work on H.R.1 before the House adjourns for the Presidents' Day recess. If the bill is approved by the House, it still needs to be approved by the Senate and signed into law by the President.

CFSI will continue to provide updates as the bill moves through the legislative process.

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